

What is claimed is:

1. A word recognizing apparatus, comprising:
- listing means for storing a list of at least one  
5 word;
- dictionary means for storing feature amounts of  
a plurality of characters;
- generating means for generating a feature amount  
of a word stored in said listing means using the  
10 feature amounts of characters stored in said  
dictionary means; and
- collating means for collating the generated  
feature amount of the word with a feature amount of  
a recognition target and outputting a recognition  
15 result.
2. The word recognizing apparatus according to claim  
1, wherein said collating means includes a memory  
means which stores the feature amount of the word, and  
20 releases the memory means when a collation of the  
feature amount of the word is completed, and stores  
a feature amount of the next word.
3. The word recognizing apparatus according to claim  
25 1, further comprising:

00309694-051199  
66F50-46860E60

inputting means for inputting an image as the recognition target; and

extracting means for performing a one-dimensional gradating conversion in a direction perpendicular to a connecting direction of characters for a direction code histogram of a contour line in each of a plurality of small areas in an inputted image and extracting a direction code histogram series obtained from a conversion result as the feature amount of the recognition target.

4. The word recognizing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said extracting means divides a length of the inputted image in the direction perpendicular to the connecting direction of characters by a predetermined integer and divides the image into the small areas with an obtained quotient as a size of each of the small areas.

5. The word recognizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said generating means generates the feature amount of the word by using feature amounts of a plurality of characters.

6. The word recognizing apparatus according to claim

00309894-05119  
66T50-46860E60

5, wherein said generating means generates a new direction code histogram series by arranging a plurality of direction code histogram series corresponding to the feature amounts of characters composing the word and designating a generated direction code histogram series as the feature amount of the word.

7. The word recognizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said collating means performs a non-linear matching of the feature amount of the word and the feature amount of the recognition target, and calculates a degree of similarity between the feature amount of the word and the feature amount of the recognition target.

8. The word recognizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said listing means stores a list which has a high possibility of containing a word corresponding to the recognition target.

9. A word recognizing apparatus, comprising:  
generating means for dynamically generating a feature amount of a word using feature amounts of characters; and

053094.0519  
65T50" 46860E60

collating means for collating the generated feature amount of the word with a feature amount of a recognition target, and for outputting a recognition result.

5

10. A recognizing apparatus, comprising:

generating means for dynamically generating a feature amount of a pattern string using feature amounts of patterns; and

10

collating means for collating the generated feature amount of the pattern string with a feature amount of a recognition target, and for outputting a recognition result.

15

11. A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program causing a computer to execute a process, said process comprising the steps of:

dynamically generating a feature amount of a word using feature amounts of characters; and

20

collating the generated feature amount of the word with a feature amount of a recognition target.

25

12. A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program causing a computer to execute a process, said process comprising the steps of:

00309894.051199  
66T50"46860E60

dynamically generating a feature amount of a pattern string using feature amounts of patterns; and

collating the generated feature amount of the pattern string with a feature amount of a recognition target.

5

13. A recognizing method, comprising the steps of:

generating a list of at least one pattern string;

generating a dictionary for storing feature

10 amounts of a plurality of patterns;

dynamically generating a feature amount of a pattern string stored in said list using feature amounts of patterns stored in said dictionary; and

15 collating the generated feature amount of the pattern string with a feature amount of a recognition target.

66T50" 46860560

all 3